

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A litter mat for use with a litter box, comprising:
a base having a first substrate and a second substrate, wherein the second substrate is constructed from a non-slip material and is fixedly attached to the first substrate;
a plurality of tufts extending through the first substrate and in an angled upwardly direction therefrom; and
a perimeter having an edge portion shaped to correspond to a an exterior contour portion of a the litter box, wherein the litter mat retains litter exiting the litter box.
2. (currently amended) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the edge portion shaped to fit around a an exterior portion of a litter box is a notch.
3. (currently amended) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the edge portion shaped to fit around a portion of a litter box is disposed near a center of ~~the~~ a rear edge of the litter mat.
4. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the litter mat includes an arcuate edge.
5. (original) The litter mat of claim 4, wherein the arcuate edge has a convex shape.
6. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the tufts are constructed from a polypropylene material.
7. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the first substrate is constructed from a hybrid woven and non-woven material.
8. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein at least one of the woven and non-woven material is constructed from a polypropylene material.
9. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the second substrate is constructed from one of a latex rubber and synthetic rubber material.

10. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, further including a third substrate attached to at least one of the first and second substrates.

11. (original) The litter mat of claim 10, wherein the third substrate is constructed from one of a latex rubber and synthetic rubber material.

12. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the tufts have a color combination adapted to mask litter collected on the mat.

13. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the angle of the tufts relative to the base is between 30° and 50°.

14. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the angle of the tufts relative to the base is approximately 40°.

15. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the tufts are angled toward a part of the base intended to be adjacent to the litter box.

16. (currently amended) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the litter mat retains at least ninety nine percent of the litter propelled toward the litter mat.

17. (original) The litter mat of claim 1, wherein the litter mat includes a border disposed around at least a portion of the perimeter.

18. (currently amended) A litter box and litter mat kit, comprising:
a litter box; and
a litter mat comprising:
a base having a perimeter, wherein the base extends beyond a litter box perimeter near an entry/exit point of the litter box; and
a plurality of tufts woven through the base and extending in an angled upwardly direction therefrom, wherein the litter mat retains litter exiting the litter box.

19. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the base includes a first substrate and a second substrate.

20. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 19, wherein the first substrate is constructed from a hybrid woven and non-woven material.

21. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 20, wherein at least one of the woven and non-woven material is constructed from a polypropylene material.

22. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 19, wherein the second substrate is constructed from a non-slip material.

23. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, further including a notch disposed near the perimeter of the base for receiving the litter box.

24. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 23, wherein the notch is disposed near the center of a rear edge of the base.

25. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the litter mat includes an arcuate edge as at least part of the perimeter.

26. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 25, wherein the arcuate edge has a convex shape.

27. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the tufts are constructed from a polypropylene material.

28. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 19, wherein the second substrate is constructed from one of a latex rubber and synthetic rubber material.

29. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the tufts have a color combination adapted to mask litter.

30. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the angle of the tufts relative to the base is between 30° and 50°.

31. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the angle of the tufts relative to the base is approximately 40°.

32. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the litter box has one entry/exit and wherein the tufts are angled toward the entry/exit of the litter box.

33. (original) The litter box and litter mat kit of claim 18, wherein the litter mat includes a border disposed around at least a portion of the perimeter.

34. (currently amended) A method of collecting cat litter, comprising:
providing a piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting;
shaping the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting into a litter mat for use with a litter box;
and
placing the litter mat adjacent to ~~near~~ the litter box for collecting cat litter escaping confines of the litter box.

35. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, wherein shaping the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting includes trimming the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting to a generally rectangular shape.

36. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, wherein shaping the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting includes creating a notch on an edge adjacent a litter box adapted to receive the litter box.

37. (currently amended) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, wherein placing the litter mat adjacent to the ~~near~~-a litter box includes facing angled tufts toward the litter box.

38. (currently amended) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, wherein placing the litter mat adjacent to the ~~near~~-a litter box includes ~~placing~~ placing at least a portion of the litter mat under the litter box.

39. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, further including creating a border around at least a portion of a perimeter of the litter mat.

40. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, further including masking litter with a plurality of tufts of the litter mat.

41. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 34, wherein providing the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting includes providing a first substrate constructed from a hybrid woven and non-woven material.

42. (original) The method of collecting cat litter of claim 41, wherein providing the piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting further includes providing a second substrate constructed from one of a latex rubber and synthetic rubber material.

43. (canceled)